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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

*In re: Hyundai and Kia Engine  
Litigation II*

Case No. 8:18-cv-02223-JLS-JDE

**Judgment**

1 Plaintiffs Leslie Flaherty, Joanna Caballero, James Carpenter, Sharon Moon,  
2 Stanton Vignes, Kesha Franklin Marbury, Christina Roos, James J. Martino, James H.  
3 Palmer, John H. Caro, Ashley Gagas, Nicole Thornhill, Janet O'Brien, Robert Buettner,  
4 Linda Short, James Twigger, Jennifer and Anthony DiPardo, Seane Ronfeldt, Gabrielle  
5 Alexander, Tavish Carduff, Brian Frazier, Chad Perry, William Pressley, and Jeannett  
6 Smith ("Plaintiffs" or "Class Representatives"), individually and as representatives of  
7 the Class, entered into a Settlement Agreement with Defendants Hyundai Motor  
8 America ("HMA"), Hyundai Motor Company ("HMC"), Kia Corporation ("KC"), and  
9 Kia America, Inc. ("KA") (together, "Defendants") (collectively the "Parties") and  
10 moved this Court for an order granting final approval of their class action settlement.  
11 The Court carefully considered the Settlement Agreement (Doc. 79-2), the motion for  
12 final approval, all supporting papers, the arguments of counsel, and all objections to the  
13 proposed settlement, and granted final approval of the class action settlement on April  
14 9, 2024 ("Final Approval Order," Doc. 163).

15 Now, in consideration of the entire record herein, it is hereby ORDERED,  
16 ADJUDGED, AND DECREED as follows:

17 1. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over this action and personal  
18 jurisdiction over the Parties in this action.

19 2. The Court enters this Order and Final Judgment more than ninety (90) days  
20 after Defendants provided notice of the proposed Settlement to the Attorney General of  
21 the United States and the state attorneys general as required by 28 U.S.C. § 1715(b),  
22 complying fully with 28 U.S.C. § 1715(d).

23 3. This Order and Final Judgment incorporates herein the Settlement  
24 Agreement (Doc. 79-2), the Preliminary Approval Order (Doc. 99), and the Final  
25 Approval Order (Doc. 163). Capitalized terms not otherwise defined here shall have the  
26 same meaning as set forth in the Settlement Agreement.

1           4.     The Class, as defined in the Court's Final Approval Order, was certified  
2 for settlement purposes only pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23, and is  
3 defined as follows:

4           All owners and lessees of a Class Vehicle who purchased or leased a Class  
5 Vehicle in the United States, including those that were purchased while the  
6 owner was abroad on active U.S. military duty, but excluding those purchased  
in U.S. territories and/or abroad.<sup>1</sup>

7           5.     The Court finds certification of the Class is appropriate pursuant to Federal  
8 Rule of Civil Procedure 23 for the reasons set forth in the Preliminary Approval Order  
9 and the Final Approval Order. Specifically, the Court concluded that: (i) the Settlement  
10 Class members are so numerous as to make joinder impracticable; (ii) there are  
11 questions of law and fact common to the Settlement Class, and such questions  
12 predominate over any questions affecting only individual members of the Settlement  
13 Class; (iii) the Class Representatives' claims and the defenses thereto are typical of the  
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15           <sup>1</sup> Excluded from the claims of the Class (and not released by this Settlement) are all  
16 claims for death, personal injury, property damage (other than damage to a Class  
17 Vehicle that is the subject of a Qualifying Repair), and subrogation. Also excluded from  
18 the Class are (a) HMA, HMC, KC, and KA; (b) any affiliate, parent, or subsidiary of  
19 HMA, HMC, KC, or KA; (c) any entity in which HMA, HMC, KC, or KA has a  
20 controlling interest; (d) any officer, director, or employee of HMA, HMC, KC, or KA;  
21 (e) any successor or assign of HMA, HMC, KC or KA; (f) any judge to whom this  
22 Action is assigned, the judge's spouse or partner, and all persons within the third degree  
23 of relationship to either of them, as well as the spouses of such persons; (g) individuals  
24 and/or entities who validly and timely opt-out of the settlement; (h) consumers or  
25 businesses that have purchased Class Vehicles previously deemed a total loss, salvaged,  
26 branded, or obtained from a junkyard (subject to verification through Carfax or other  
27 means); (i) vehicle owners or lessees who rent or previously rented the Class Vehicle  
28 for use by third-party drivers, including leasing companies; (j) individuals and  
commercial entities engaged in the business of buying, selling, or dealing in motor  
vehicles, including new and used motor vehicle dealerships, franchisees, vehicle  
brokers, or automobile auction houses and individuals employed by or acting on behalf  
of such businesses; (k) banks, credit unions or other lienholders; and (l) current or  
former owners of a Class Vehicles who previously released their claims in an individual  
settlement with HMA, HMC, KC, or KA with respect to the issues raised the Action.

1 claims of the Settlement Class and the defenses thereto; (iv) the Class Representatives  
2 and their counsel can protect and have fairly and adequately protected the interests of  
3 the Settlement Class members in the Action; and (v) a class action is superior to all other  
4 available methods for fairly and efficiently resolving the Action and provides substantial  
5 benefits to the Settlement Class. The Court therefore determines that this Action  
6 satisfies the prerequisites for class certification for settlement purposes under Federal  
7 Rule of Civil Procedure 23.

8         6. The Class Notice was disseminated in accordance with the procedures  
9 required by the Court's Orders (Docs. 99, 122, 154), in accordance with applicable law,  
10 and satisfied the requirements of Rule 23(e) and due process and constituted the best  
11 notice practicable for the reasons discussed in the Preliminary Approval Order and Final  
12 Approval Order.

13         7. The Court held a hearing on September 8, 2023, to consider the fairness,  
14 reasonableness, and adequacy of the proposed Settlement, and adequate notice of the  
15 proceedings was given to Settlement Class Members, with a full opportunity to  
16 participate in the fairness hearing.

17         8. The Court carefully considered and overruled any objections to the  
18 proposed settlement that have been filed.

19         9. The Court concluded the Settlement is a fair, reasonable, and adequate  
20 compromise of the claims asserted in this action for the reasons set forth in the Final  
21 Approval Order. Specifically, the Court considered each of the factors in Rule 23(e)(2)  
22 and each of the eight factors set forth in *Staton v. Boeing Co.*, 327 F.3d 938, 959 (9th  
23 Cir. 2003). The factors the Court has considered include: "(1) the strength of plaintiffs'  
24 case; (2) the risk, expense, complexity, and likely duration of further litigation; (3) the  
25 risk of maintaining class action status throughout the trial; (4) the amount offered in  
26 settlement; (5) the extent of discovery completed, and the stage of the proceedings;  
27 (6) the experience and views of counsel; (7) the presence of a governmental participant;  
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1 and (8) the reaction of the class members to the proposed settlement.” *Id.* Further, the  
2 Court concluded the Settlement is not the product of collusion. The Court found these  
3 factors supported final approval.

4 10. The Court further considered Plaintiffs’ request for attorneys’ fees and  
5 expenses and Class Representative service awards (Doc. 106). The Court concluded  
6 \$3,404,900.14 in attorneys’ fees are reasonable under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure  
7 23, and awarded them to Plaintiffs’ and Class Counsel. Further, the Court concluded  
8 that service awards to twenty-four (24) Class Representatives totaling \$99,000 (\$5,000  
9 to the following Plaintiffs deposed in this matter: Linda Short, James Twigger, Tavish  
10 Carduff, Anthony and Jennifer DiPardo,<sup>2</sup> William Pressley, Seane Ronfeldt, Jeannett  
11 Smith, Chad Perry, Brian Frazier, and Gabrielle Alexander; and \$3,500 to Plaintiffs  
12 Leslie Flaherty, Joanna Caballero, Sharon Moon, Stanton Vignes, Kesha Franklin  
13 Marbury, Christina Roos, James Carpenter, James J. Martino, James H. Palmer, John  
14 H. Caro, Ashley Gagas, Nicole Thornhill, Janet O’Brien, and Robert Buettner) are  
15 reasonable under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23, and awarded them to Plaintiffs.  
16 All other payments and costs shall be borne as set forth in the Settlement Agreement or  
17 as agreed to by the Parties.

18 11. If the Final Approval Order is set aside, materially modified, or overturned  
19 by this Court or on appeal, and is not fully reinstated on further appeal, this Order  
20 certifying a Settlement Class shall be vacated *nunc pro tunc*.

21 12. All Parties are bound by the Final Approval Order, this Order and Final  
22 Judgment, and the Settlement Agreement.

23 13. All Class members, except those who timely opted out (Doc. 191-1), are  
24 bound by the Final Approval Order and this Order and Final Judgment. All Class  
25 members that timely and validly requested exclusion from the Settlement Class (Doc.  
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28 <sup>2</sup> The \$5,000 award will be jointly awarded to the DiPardos, a married couple.

1 191-1) shall neither share in nor be bound by the Final Approval Order, subject to the  
2 terms of the Settlement Agreement.

3 14. The Court dismisses, on the merits and with prejudice, the above-captioned  
4 action and all claims currently pending before it belonging to Class members who did  
5 not request exclusion from the Class in the time and manner provided for in the Class  
6 Notice (“Settlement Class Members”).

7 15. As of the Effective Date of the Settlement Agreement, Releasors (as  
8 defined in the Settlement Agreement) irrevocably release, waive, and discharge any and  
9 all past, present, and future liabilities, claims, causes of action, legal claims, damages,  
10 costs, attorneys’ fees, losses, or demands that have been brought or could have been  
11 brought, whether known or unknown, existing or potential, or suspected or unsuspected  
12 relating to Class Vehicles against Releasees (as defined in the Settlement Agreement),  
13 whether or not specifically named herein, asserted or unasserted, under or pursuant to  
14 any statute, regulation, common law, or equitable principle, based on (i) the facts alleged  
15 in any complaint filed in the Action and all legal claims of whatever type or description  
16 arising out of, that may have arisen as a result of, or which could have been brought  
17 based on, any of the facts, acts, events, transactions, occurrences, courses of conduct,  
18 representations, omissions, circumstances or other matters pleaded in complaints filed  
19 in the Action, and (ii) claims covered by and remedied under the 15-Year/150,000-Mile  
20 Extended Warranty and other benefits described in sections II.A through II.I (including  
21 the 15-Year/150,000-Mile Extended Warranty, Repair Reimbursements, Repair-  
22 Related Transportation and Towing Reimbursements, Inconvenience Due to Repair  
23 Delays, Incidentals for Qualifying Fire or Qualifying Failure, Loss of Value for Certain  
24 Sold or Traded-In Vehicles, Loss of Vehicle By Qualifying Fire, and Qualifying Failure  
25 or Qualifying Fire Rebate), including those related to issues of oil consumption (that are  
26 the causal result of connecting rod bearing failure), oil maintenance (that are the causal  
27 result of connecting rod bearing failure), and vehicle fires originating in the engine  
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1 compartment. The Settlement Agreement and release do not release claims for (i) death,  
2 (ii) personal injury, (iii) damage to tangible property other than a Class Vehicle, or (iv)  
3 subrogation. Even if they later discover facts in addition to or different from those which  
4 they now know or believe to be true, Releasors fully, finally, and forever settle and  
5 release any and all legal claims against Releasees.

6 16. Upon issuance of the Final Approval Order and this Order and Final  
7 Judgment: (i) the Settlement shall be the exclusive remedy for Class members and  
8 subsequent Class Vehicle owners and lessees; (ii) Releasees shall not be subject to  
9 liability or expense of any kind to any Class members or subsequent Class Vehicle  
10 owners and lessees for reasons related to the Action except as set forth in the Settlement  
11 Agreement; and (iii) Class members and subsequent Class Vehicle owners and lessees  
12 shall be permanently barred from initiating, asserting, or prosecuting any and all  
13 released claims against the Releasees.

14 17. All Class members who did not make a valid request for exclusion in the  
15 time and manner provided in the Class Notice are barred, permanently enjoined, and  
16 restrained from commencing or prosecuting any action, suit, proceeding, claim or cause  
17 of action in any jurisdiction or court against HMA, HMC, KA, KC, Hyundai America  
18 Technical Center, Inc. (also doing business as Hyundai-Kia America Technical Center),  
19 Hyundai Motor Manufacturing Alabama, Kia Georgia, Inc., all affiliates of the Hyundai  
20 Motor Group or any other Releasee based upon, relating to, or arising out of, any of the  
21 released claims.

22 18. The Settlement Agreement, acts performed in furtherance of the Settlement  
23 Agreement, and documents executed in furtherance of the Settlement Agreement or the  
24 settlement set forth therein may not be deemed or used as evidence of an admission or  
25 other statement supporting: (a) the validity of any claim made by Plaintiffs, Settlement  
26 Class Members, or Class Counsel (including the appropriateness of class certification);  
27 (b) any wrongdoing or liability of the Releasees; or (c) any fault or omission of the  
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1 Releasees in any court, administrative agency, or other proceeding. Neither the  
2 Settlement Agreement (nor any Addendum thereto) shall be offered or be admissible in  
3 evidence against HMA, HMC, KA, KC, Hyundai America Technical Center, Inc. (also  
4 doing business as Hyundai-Kia America Technical Center), Hyundai Motor  
5 Manufacturing Alabama, Kia Georgia, Inc., all affiliates of the Hyundai Motor Group,  
6 and/or their affiliates or cited or referred to in any action or proceeding, except in an  
7 action or proceeding that is in furtherance of its terms or brought to enforce its terms.

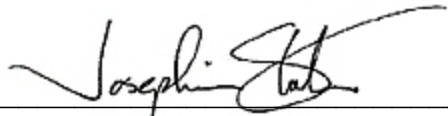
8 19. If this Order and Final Judgment is set aside, materially modified, or  
9 overturned by this Court or on appeal, and is not fully reinstated on further appeal, this  
10 Order and Final Judgment shall be deemed vacated and shall have no force or effect  
11 whatsoever.

12 20. The Court hereby authorizes the Parties, without further approval from the  
13 Court, to adopt such amendments, modifications, and expansions of the Settlement  
14 Agreement and all Exhibits hereto as: (i) shall be consistent in all material respects with  
15 this Final Approval Order; and (ii) do not limit the rights of the Parties or the Settlement  
16 Class.

17 21. Without affecting the finality of the Final Approval Order or this Order and  
18 Final Judgment in any way, the Court reserves continuing jurisdiction over matters  
19 relating to the Settlement, including, without limitation, the administration,  
20 interpretation, effectuation and/or enforcement of the Settlement, the Settlement  
21 Agreement, and this Final Order and Judgment.

22  
23 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

24  
25 DATED: April 26, 2024

26   
27 HON. JOSEPHINE L. STATON  
28 UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE